

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
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DEPT. FOR S/PRS - JOHN TRATTNER, AF/S; USIA FOR IPS,
IEU, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: FOLLOWING TEXT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
HELD BY SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN
LONDON TODAY FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN
FOREIGN SECRETARY BOTHA.

OWEN: WELL, WE'RE SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. THAT'S THE
FIRST THING AND WE REALIZE IT'S BEEN A DAY AND I HOPE
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF WE DON'T SAY A GREAT DEAL OF DETAIL
ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS. WE'VE HAD NEARLY 6 AND A HALF
HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS AND ABOUT THEM I'D SAY THAT THEY'VE
BEEN VERY SERIOUS, DETAILED DISCUSSIONS HELD IN AN OPEN
ATMOSPHERE, SENSIBLE DISCUSSIONS OF A GROUP OF
INDIVIDUALS ALL OF WHOM I THINK HAVE ONE PURPOSE WHICH
IS TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT PEACE AND STABILITY IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THESE ARE PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS
THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON NOW EVER SINCE THE ANGLO-U.S.
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INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED OVER THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF
RHODESIA AND BRINGING ABOUT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE
AND THEY WILL CULMINATE FAIRLY SOON NOW IN OUR SPRING-
ING FORWARD AS WE PROMISED WE WOULD OUR VIEWS AS THE
WAY WE CAN ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THERE
ARE STILL FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES
TO THE WHOLE OF THE PROBLEM WHICH NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN

AND THE EXACT TIMING OF THESE AND THE EXACT WAY FORWARD
WE WILL MAKE OUR DECISIONS ON THESE IN THE LIGHT OF THE
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. WELL, I THINK THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD
MEETING, VERY GOOD MEETING.

VANCE: YOU'VE DESCRIBED IT ADMIRABLY AND I THINK WE
OUGHT TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE.

QUESTION: I HOPE YOU WON'T MISUNDERSTAND MY QUESTION
BUT WHAT KEPT YOU?

OWEN: THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM. IT'S BEEN, IT GOES BACK
IN HISTORY, SOME WOULD SAY 1926, SOME WOULD SAY EARLIER
THAN THAT. THESE ARE DETAILED THINGS, AND THE FACT THAT
WE TOOK A LONG TIME OVER IT IS A GOOD SIGN, NOT A BAD
SIGN. I WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY EASY TO HAVE HAD A MEETING
LASTING HALF AN HOUR. THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A GOOD
SIGN. THIS WAS A MEETING GOING INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL
IN A SENSIBLE WAY OF TRYING TO REACH A SENSIBLE SOLU-
TION TO THE PROBLEM SO I THINK THAT THE LENGTH OF TIME
WAS AN INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND THE DEPTH OF
THE DISCUSSION.

VANCE: THESE ARE A VERY, VERY COMPLEX ISSUE, AND A
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF SUCH ISSUES, IT IS BOUND TO TAKE
TIME AND I QUITE AGREE WITH DAVID THAT IT IS, IT WAS
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A GOOD MEETING BECAUSE THERE WAS SUCH A FULL AND
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES.

QUESTION: IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STILL CO-
OPERATING WITH THE EFFORT TO THE SAME EXTENT IT DID 6
MONTHS AGO?

OWEN: WELL, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHEN I WENT
OUT THERE AND DISCUSSED IT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE
THIS WHOLE CONCEPT OF AN ANGLO-U.S. INITIATIVE IN APRIL
A FAIR WIND AND THEY HAVE DONE SO THROUGHOUT. THEY'VE
SAID THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS AND THIS IS A THING, BUT
THEY HAVE BEEN READY TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH US.
THEY POINTED OUT WHERE THEY THINK WE SHOULD FOCUS THE
MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE DISCUSSION, BUT WE'VE KEPT THEM,
THEY'VE BEEN AWARE OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DIS-
CUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. CY WOULD HAVE SAID THAT THIS
IS PART OF A CONTINUUM WHICH THEY THAT STARTED WHEN WE
FIRST LAUNCHED THE INITIATIVE. THEY'VE NEVER, THEY'VE
ALWAYS ADOPTED THE ATTITUDE THAT THIS IS WORTH DOING
AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS TO
HAVE A STABLE, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ON THEIR BORDERS AND

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I THINK THAT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE IS SOMETHING WHICH
THEY ACCEPT NOW AS BEING SOMETHING WHICH IS IN THEIR
BEST INTERESTS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT IS IT THAT THE UNITED
STATES CAN DO ABOUT THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND
SECONDLY, WHY IS THE UNITED STATES REALLY INVOLVED, IT
DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL VITAL INTERESTS IN RHODESIA?

VANCE: ANSWERING YOUR FIRST QUESTION, WHAT CAN WE DO
ABOUT IT. I THINK WE CAN CONSTRUCTIVELY WORK WITH OUR
BRITISH COLLEAGUES IN PREPARING PROPOSALS AND IMPLEMEN-
TING THOSE PROPOSALS FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE
RHODESIAN QUESTION. I THINK THAT WE HAVE MADE GOOD PRO-
GRESS IN DEVELOPING THE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL
BE MADE PUBLIC IN THE NOT DISTANT FUTURE. LET ME JUST
CONTINUE, IF I MAY. YOU ASK WHY IS THE UNITED STATES
INVOLVED? THE ISSUES INVOLVED HERE ARE ISSUES OF
IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA OR
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ZIMBABWE THEMSELVES, BUT THEY ARE ISSUES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD AS WELL, AND THERE-

FORE I THINK IT IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE WORKING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH OUR BRITISH ALLIES AND COLLEAGUES.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CLARIFY THE QUESTION OF PROGRESS, HAVE THE PROPOSALS NOW BEEN FINALIZED AND DO THEY HAVE A MEASURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ENDORSEMENT?

OWEN: WELL, I THINK THAT THE PROPOSALS WILL BE FINALIZED IN THE SENSE THE DAY THEY'RE PUBLISHED AND THERE ARE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND EXPLANATIONS WHICH WE WILL NEED TO GO THROUGH, SO TO THAT EXTENT I THINK THAT ONE MUST AWAIT THE PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSALS, AND AS TO THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTITUDE TO THIS, THIS IS SOMETHING FOR THEM TO EXPRESS, AND I THINK THEY WILL WANT TO SEE THE FINAL PROPOSALS THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY FORM A FINAL JUDGEMENT ON IT. WHAT YOU CAN SAY IS THAT THEY HAVE A MUCH CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD TODAY.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, WHEN YOU WERE IN WASHINGTON THESE WERE DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE PROPOSALS OR A ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE SCHEME, WOULD THAT DESCRIPTION STILL HOLD AND REALLY WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE WASHINGTON, HOW HAVE YOU ADVANCED THIS BY GOING INTO MORE DETAIL OR HAVE YOU CHANGED THE CONCEPT IN ANY SENSE, THE APPROACH?

OWEN: I THINK THAT THE WASHINGTON MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS A CRUCIAL MEETING IN TERMS OF THE APPROACH UNCLASSIFIED

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AND WHAT ONE HAS BEEN DOING EVER SINCE THEN HAS BEEN, THAT WAS PART OF THE CONTINUUM OF THE DISCUSSIONS GONE ON ACTUALLY SINCE APRIL, BUT THAT WAS A TIME WHEN WE CAME WITH THE DEFINITE DECISION THAT THE TIME WAS NOW TO LAY DOWN PROPOSALS, AND SINCE WASHINGTON THERE HAVE BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES ABOUT ASPECTS OF DETAIL AND THERE HAVE BEEN FURTHER MEETINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE AS YOU KNOW AS PART OF THIS WHOLE PROCESS.

QUESTION: WAS THERE ANY SENSITIVITY ON YOUR PART OR ON THE AMERICAN PART IN CALLING THIS ONE MAN, CAN BOTH OF

YOU GENTLEMEN SAY ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN PUBLIC?

OWEN: WE'VE BEEN SAYING THIS FOR SOME WEEKS, MONTHS
NOW THAT THE FRANCHISE SHOULD BE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE TRANSITION PROBLEM? IF THIS IS
ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CERTAINLY, AS FAR AS MR. SMITH
AND SALISBURY OBJECTED TO SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THAT
WERE MADE, HAVE YOU ADVANCED IN THIS AREA?

OWEN: I REALLY DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GET INTO TOO MUCH
OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS. THE TIME FOR THAT WILL
BE WHEN THEY ARE PUBLISHED AND THAT IS, YOU KNOW, SOME-
THING WHICH IS WHEN WE'LL DEAL WITH IT.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF A TIME FRAME HOW
SOON?

OWEN: I DON'T THINK I WANT TO BE DRAWN.

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QUESTION: DR. OWEN ?

OWEN: I THINK YOU'LL DISCOVER WHEN WE PUBLISH IT WHEN
WE ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION DATE. I MEAN THE BASIC THING

WHICH WE'VE GOT TO DO IS CONDUCT A FEW MORE DISCUSSIONS. THERE ARE A LOT OF PARTIES THAT ARE INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE - THE RHODESIAN ELECTIONS ARE ELECTIONS WHICH ARE BEING CALLED BY MR. SMITH WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH ANYONE, AND WILL INVOLVE 3 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE IN RHODESIA. THEY'RE AN ELEMENT, BUT THERE ARE OTHER ELEMENTS AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND OTHER LEADERS THAT ARE INVOLVED AND OTHER PEOPLE OF PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE WHICH NEED TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSED WITH.

QUESTION: WILL THESE SORT OF DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN SECRETARY, INVOLVE YOU GOING TO AFRICA AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

OWEN: I THINK THEY PROBABLY WILL, YES.

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QUESTION: WILL YOU BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. YOUNG?

OWEN: NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF ANY OF THIS, WHEN, HOW, WHO, WHERE, WHAT WE SEE, NONE OF THAT HAS BEEN FINALIZED YET.

QUESTION: SUPPOSE WE SPECULATE IT AS BEING BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH, WOULD THAT BE?

OWEN: YES, I THINK YOU'D NOT BE TOO FAR OFF OF MARK.

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. YOUNG ON THIS VISIT?

OWEN: WE'VE NOT MADE ANY DECISIONS ABOUT THE STRUCTURE, THE FORM, WHEN WE GO OR ANYTHING AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME.

QUESTION: ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE ABOUT ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE, IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REALLY ACTIVELY GOING TO TRY AND PRESS THIS ON THE SMITH REGIME?

OWEN: WELL, I THINK THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT YOU SHOULD ADDRESS TO THEM. I THINK YOU SHOULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO GIVE YOU SPECIFIC ANSWERS NOW, THEY WOULD WANT TO SEE THE FINAL PROPOSALS.

QUESTION: IF IT'S SO VAGUE, FOREIGN SECRETARY, ONE MIGHT SUGGEST WITH RESPECT AS THEY SAY TODAY'S MEETING HASN'T ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING AT ALL?

OWEN: WELL, THE ANGLO-U.S. INITIATIVE IS BEING WRITTEN OFF NOW OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND, I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR EVERYBODY TO ACCEPT

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AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY TO TAKE YOU INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND GIVE YOU AS MUCH INFORMATION, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO FACE IT THAT THESE ARE DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE CONTINUING AND THE DAY WE GO PUBLIC WILL BE THE DAY DECIDE TO PUBLISH THEM.

QUESTION: DOES THE DEMAND FOR ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE APPLY TO SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS TO RHODESIA?

OWEN: WE'RE DEALING HERE WITH THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA AND THOUGH ALL OF THESE ISSUES HAVE SOME RELATIONSHIP TO THE WHOLE FRAMEWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND GO BOTH UP AND DOWN, THE ISSUE WHICH WE'RE DISCUSSING NOW IS THE QUESTION OF RHODESIA AND HOW WE GET MAJORITY RULE GOVERNMENT THERE.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, DID MR. BOTHA SUPPORT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS YOU'VE WORKED OUT, BECAUSE YOU'VE JUST INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT THEM UNTIL YOU SEE THE FINAL ONE. DOES THIS IMPLY THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS THE OTHER PLACES BEFORE THE FINAL PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSALS?

OWEN: WE'VE NOT FINALIZED ANY DEFINITE DECISIONS ON VISITS AS YET AND AS TO THE QUESTION OF MR. BOTHA'S ATTITUDE, YOU MUST ASK HIM.

QUESTION: WHY ISN'T HE HERE WITH YOU AND MR. VANCE?

OWEN: THERE'S NO PARTICULAR REASON. WE DECIDED THAT WE WOULD TALK ABOUT OUR OWN INITIATIVES AND HE WOULD TALK

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TO HIS PRESS AND TO ANY OTHER PEOPLE WHO WISH TO TALK
TO HIM.

VANCE: DAVID, MIGHT I MAKE A COMMENT HERE. INSOFAR AS
THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY
BE PUT FORWARD, I THINK IT WOULD BE QUITE INAPPROPRIATE
TO DISCUSS THEM UNTIL DAVID HAS HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS
THE PROPOSALS WITH EACH OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT A
WORKING GROUP?

ANSWER: (LAUGHTER)

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE SEEING PRESIDENT NYERERE TO-
MORROW?

OWEN: YOU SEEM TO BE VERY KEEN TO GET IT ABSOLUTELY
SPECIFIC - OF WHO EXACTLY I AM GOING TO SEE AND WHEN.
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I AM NOT GOING TO BE DRAWN TOO MUCH ON DETAIL OF WHO
I AM GOING TO SEE AND WHEN. ONCE I START ON THAT I'LL
BE SCHEDULING A COMPLETE ITINERARY OVER THE NEXT FEW
WEEKS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WILL YOU BE SEEING PRESIDENT
NYERERE?

VANCE: YES, I WILL BE SEEING PRESIDENT NYERERE TOMORROW.
IT'S EITHER GOING TO BE 10 OR 10.30, SOMETIME IN THAT
NEIGHBORHOOD, AT A TIME WHICH IS CONVENIENT TO HIM.

QUESTION: WHERE?

VANCE: I BELIEVE IT'S GOING TO BE AT THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL, WHICH I THINK IS AT HEATHROW.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING WHICH IS MORE THAN A DETAIL. IS THE CLOCK STILL RUNNING, IS THE DEADLINE THAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT STILL THE END OF 1978?

OWEN: THAT'S YOUR DEADLINE. THE CLOCK IS STILL RUNNING, I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE IT, AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE MUCH EARLIER THAN THAT. CERTAINLY EARLIER THAN THE END OF 1978.

QUESTION: WHEN THE PLAN IS PUBLISHED, WILL IT BE DETAILED OR WILL OTHER DETAILS STILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED AFTER THE PLAN HAS BEEN PUBLISHED?

OWEN: IT WILL BE DETAILED.

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QUESTION: DR. OWEN, DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT MR. SMITH IS SINCERE IN HIS COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS?

OWEN: I WISH I KNEW.

QUESTION: ARE YOU STILL WORKING ON THAT BASIS?

OWEN: I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT I CAN ONLY OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM THAT HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS, THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT HE IS SAYING.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU HAD ANY EVIDENCE OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

OWEN: IF I HAD CONCRETE EVIDENCE I WOULD ANSWER THAT I KNEW WHAT HIS INTENTIONS WERE. I HOPE THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED THE REALITY OF LIFE WHICH IS THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE AND THAT IS THE INTERESTS OF THE WHITE RHODESIANS AND THE BLACK RHODESIANS AND THAT THAT SHOULD BE BASED ON ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE, IT SHOULD BE BASED ON FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND THAT IT SHOULD BE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL LIVE UNDER A ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT WHO SHOULD DECIDE WHO THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM OBVIOUSLY HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME. WHAT MAKES YOU CON-

FIDENT THAT YOU THINK THERE CAN BE AN INDEPENDENT
ZIMBABWE BEFORE THE END OF 1978?

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OWEN: I SAID I HOPE.

QUESTION: YES, BUT WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THESE PRO-
POSALS WILL SUCCEED WHERE SOMEBODY WHO WALKED THAT PATH
BEFORE, ETC.?

OWEN: I'VE NEVER BEEN EXACTLY AN OPTIMIST ABOUT ANY OF
THESE PROPOSALS, BUT I THINK AS YOU GET CLOSER AND AS
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SEE THE NECESSITY OF RESOLVING
THIS CONFLICT THEN ANYONE'S HOPES ARE THAT THE SANITY
OF ENDING THIS IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THAT THAT IS
THE ONLY WAY THAT IS GOING TO SERVE THE OBJECTIVES OF
ALMOST ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED. ONE JUST HOPES THAT
THEY WILL SEE THIS. THAT IT IS A SENSELESS CONFLICT
GOING ON THERE WHERE PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE BEING LOST AND
THAT IN THE LAST ANALYSIS WE CAN ONLY HOPE.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT WILL, IS AMENABLE TO A TYPE OF NEGOTIATED SETTLE-
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MENT THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

OWEN: YES.

QUESTION: THEY STILL ARE INTERESTED IN NOT WINNING BY FORCE?

OWEN: I BELIEVE THAT THEY DO ACCEPT THAT THERE MUST BE ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE FUTURE GOVERNMENTS OF ZIMBABWE, YES.

QUESTION: CAN I ASK BOTH OF YOU HOW MUCH PRESSURE ARE YOU EACH WILLING TO PUT ON SOUTH AFRICA TO IN TURN PUT PRESSURE ON RHODESIA TO GO ALONG?

VANCE: I THINK THE ANSWER TO THAT SHOULD BE THAT WE SHOULD AWAIT SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO THE COMPLETE PROPOSALS AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO THOSE PROPOSALS.

OWEN: I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT WE WANT, A CONSIDERED CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE, BUT I THINK THAT ONE OUGHT TO NOT TO EXPECT FIRST A RESPONSE UNTIL THEY SEE THE FINAL PROPOSALS AND EVEN THEN I THINK THEY ARE GOING TO WANT TO LOOK AT THIS. THIS WILL BE A DETAILED PACKAGE WHICH WE BELIEVE WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT IT, FAIR MINDED PEOPLE LOOK AT IT WILL SEE IT AS AN HONEST ATTEMPT TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THIS VERY GREAT PROBLEM. I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET VERY MUCH FURTHER.

QUESTION: IS IT FAIR TO SAY THAT YOUR DISCUSSION TODAY WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO EXPLAINING THESE COMPLEX DETAILS RATHER THAN RECEIVING FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS A JUDGEMENT ON THEM PIECE BY PIECE?

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VANCE: WE DID DISCUSS AT LENGTH THE OUTLINE AND GENERAL SUBSTANCE OF A NUMBER OF THE IDEAS WHICH WE HAVE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE PROPOSALS AND WE DID EXPLAIN THEM AT LENGTH AND ANSWERED A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHAT THEY INVOLVED AND HOW THEY WOULD OPERATE. I THINK THAT'S FAIR TO DESCRIBE IT, DON'T YOU.

OWEN: ABSOLUTELY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID YOU GET AN INTERIM RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS TODAY ON THE PROPOSALS YOU PRESENTED?

VANCE: FIRST LET ME SAY, I DON'T THINK WE OUGHT TO SPEAK FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS, THE SOUTH AFRICANS CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON THIS. SECONDLY I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO ASK FOR AN INTERIM RESPONSE TODAY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE ALL OF THE MATTERS NECESSARY TO ASK FOR AN ANSWER.

QUESTION: BUT DID THEY GIVE YOU AN INTERIM RESPONSE IN ANY CASE?

VANCE: I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYMORE. ASK THEM.

QUESTION: DID THEY IN ANY WAY HELP SHAPE WHAT'S GOING ON, I HATE THE WORD INPUT, BUT WAS THERE AN SOUTH AFRICAN INPUT OR WERE THEY KIND OF SITTING IN THE BLEACHERS WATCHING YOU WORK?

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OWEN: IN THE BLEACHERS, I AM NOT SURE WE WERE IN THE BLEACHERS, WE WERE -

QUESTION: NO, THEY, NOT YOU -

OWEN: I DON'T THINK THEY WERE, WE WERE BOTH OF US IN THE STADIUM, WE WERE GRAPPLING WITH THE PROBLEM. I THINK THAT'S THE WAY I WOULD PUT IT. THIS WAS A SERIOUS WORKING MEETING DEALING WITH THE COMPLEXITIES AND THE DETAIL OF A PACKAGE WHICH WE ALL KNOW WILL NEVER SATISFY EVERY SINGLE ELEMENT. THERE IS NO WAY GIVEN ALL THE CONFLICTING VIEWS THAT ARE HELD BY THE VARIOUS DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN THIS THAT ALL PARTS OF A PACKAGE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. THERE'S NO WAY THAT THAT WILL BE. WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS THAT SEEM TO BE FAIR AND HONORABLE AND OFFERING A WAY FORWARD TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THAT'S BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE.

VANCE: I WOULD ONLY ADD THAT WE SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS
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WITH RESPECT TO ASPECTS OF THE PACKAGE AS WE OUTLINED IT TO THEM AND WHERE THEY FELT IT APPROPRIATE TO RESPOND THEY DID SO.

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, YOU MENTIONED, YOU USED THE PHRASE "SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS". DOES THAT MEAN THAT IT WAS YOUR FEELING AND DR. OWEN'S TO INVITE THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO COME AND PARTICIPATE, IN OTHER WORDS THE INITIATIVE CAME FROM THE TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE HERE?

VANCE: INDEED. ALL OF US HAVE A COMMON OBJECTIVE, AND THE COMMON OBJECTIVE, AS DAVID HAS SAID, IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, AND WE INVITED THEM TO COME AND DISCUSS WITH US OUR THOUGHTS AS THEY CURRENTLY STAND WITH RESPECT TO THESE MATTERS, SO THAT WE COULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR THINKING, AND COULD CONVEY OUR VIEWS.

QUESTION: THANK YOU.

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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0774
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770868/aaaacfcg.tel
Line Count: 698
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8352755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 13
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1619402
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT: FOLLOWING TEXT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN LONDON TODAY FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH SOUT H AF
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, UK, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (OWENS, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8352755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009